

SENATE RESOLUTION 200

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Alcenia's Restaurant on the occasion of its reopening.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize those exemplary businesses that, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable establishment is Alcenia's Restaurant in Memphis, a nationally renowned purveyor of Southern fare, which is reopening after a yearlong renovation; and

WHEREAS, Betty Joyce Chester-Tamayo opened Alcenia's at 317 N. Main Street in 1997, a little more than a year after her only child, Will Adler "GoGo" Tamayo III, was killed in a motorcycle accident; in the face of unthinkable tragedy, the restaurant became her respite and her mission; and

WHEREAS, Alcenia's has enjoyed a robust patronage and much critical success during its twenty-five-year history; the forty-four-seat restaurant has garnered accolades at home and around the country from media outlets such as NBC's *Today*, Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, and *CBS Sunday Morning*, and a film crew from Italy paid a visit to the establishment to do a feature on its Southern fare served with a side of hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Alcenia's also gained national attention when Betty Joyce Chester-Tamayo was a contestant on Food Network's hit show *Chopped*; and

WHEREAS, since opening her restaurant, Ms. Chester-Tamayo had aspired to purchase the edifice that housed it; she did just that on December 2, 2020, and then embarked upon much-needed repairs, including a new roof, restroom renovations, and new floors; and

WHEREAS, after a protracted renovation and a setback in the form of a fire in the new kitchen vent system, Alcenia's reopened on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Alcenia's enthusiasts can once again enjoy the restaurant's staples, including crispy fried chicken, smothered pork chops, black-eyed peas, yams, and hot-water cornbread, along with a few new additions to the menu; and

WHEREAS, attendant to the culinary delights of Alcenia's is the refreshed décor: sleek white walls and a textured feature wall in black, a faux-marble floor hand-painted by Memphis artist Larry Walker, crystal light fixtures, pops of color in the vases of flowers on each table, and new windows that allow natural light to flood the once-dim room; and

WHEREAS, a portrait of Betty Joyce Chester-Tamayo's mother, who is the restaurant's namesake, will hold a place of honor on the entry wall when it is officially revealed on April 24, 2022, alongside photographs, paintings, and other memorabilia from Alcenia's twenty-five years of business; and

WHEREAS, Alcenia's has served as a pillar of its community, and it continues to attract guests from throughout Memphis and across the country; and

WHEREAS, after a year of remodeling and upgrading, Alcenia's is once again open for business, much to the delight of its patrons; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize Betty Joyce Chester-Tamayo and employees of Alcenia's in Memphis upon the restaurant's reopening after a yearlong hiatus and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.